

- Botanical Name:** *Genista pilosa*
- Cultivar:** 'Vancouver Gold' (a registered COPF cultivar)
- Family:** Fabaceae (Leguminosae)
- Common Name:** May be called 'Vancouver Gold' broom or spreading broom, but usually referred to by its botanical name, *Genista*.
- Origin:** The wild species occurs from southern Sweden to Greece and in western Europe. It is variable in growth habit in nature. The cultivar 'Vancouver Gold', named by UBC Botanical Garden in 1983, will be introduced to the horticultural trade in 1985. This excellent selection was found and grown by Mr. E.H. Lohbrunner in Victoria, B.C., and was acquired by the UBC Botanical Garden in 1975.
- General Description:** A low, spreading evergreen shrub (rooting as it spreads), forming a dense undulating mound of arching grey-green stems and small leaves, covered with bright yellow flowers in May (late April to early June) and a few flowers later in the season.
Height: 10-15 cm (4-6 in.); ultimately to about 30 cm (12 in.)
Spread: To about a meter (3 ft.)
Leaves: Small, bright green above, hairy and grey-green beneath.
Flowers: Golden-yellow, pea-shaped to about 1 cm ($\frac{3}{8}$ in.) long, borne in great profusion on the ends of the branches, completely hiding the leaves and stems for about 5-6 weeks.
- Soil Requirements:** Average, well-drained soils.
- Exposure Requirements:** Prefers a sunny location to look its best. Becomes straggly and flowers less well in shaded positions.
- Pruning:** Some shearing or removal of older stems may keep it looking tidy, but its compact form needs no pruning.
- Uses in the Landscape:** It is especially well-suited for the average sized garden. It is an excellent evergreen shrub to drift over a rock wall, for a large rock garden, in front of a shrub border or against a wall. It has potential as a container-grown plant for patios and balconies.
There is considerable potential for this plant to be used on a large scale as a ground cover for highway berms.
- Hardiness:** Completely hardy in Vancouver (U.S.D.A Zone 6A). Probably hardy down to Zone 5.
- Propagation:** Semi-hardwood cuttings about 7.5 cm (3 in.) long of multi-branched stems inserted from July to October root 90% + without hormone treatment in 5 weeks. Suitable for direct sticking of cuttings into individual containers.
- Sales Potential:** Excellent as a one gallon sales item during late April through May, as it flowers profusely and is very showy.